

104TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 1623

To establish a National Tourism Board and a National Tourism Organization,  
and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 15, 1996

Mr. WARNER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred  
to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

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## A BILL

To establish a National Tourism Board and a National  
Tourism Organization, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Travel and Tourism  
5       Partnership Act of 1996”.

1     **TITLE I—NATIONAL TOURISM**  
2                     **BOARD**

3     **SEC. 101. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL TOURISM BOARD.**

4         (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Na-  
5     tional Tourism Board (hereafter in this title referred to  
6     as the “Board”).

7         (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

8             (1) COMPOSITION.—The Board shall be com-  
9     posed of 36 members, appointed by the President, in  
10    consultation with the appropriate representatives of  
11    the travel and tourism industry. The members ap-  
12    pointed under this subsection shall include—

13                 (A) 1 member appointed to serve as the  
14             Chairperson of the Board, by and with the ad-  
15             vice and consent of the Senate;

16                 (B) 1 member appointed from nominations  
17             submitted by the Speaker of the House of Rep-  
18             resentatives;

19                 (C) 1 member appointed from nominations  
20             submitted by the President pro tempore of the  
21             Senate;

22                 (D) 6 members appointed from among em-  
23             ployees of Federal and State agencies related to  
24             travel and tourism; and

1 (E) 27 members representing the private  
2 sector and a wide range of travel and tourism  
3 industries.

4 (2) ACCOUNTABILITY OF CHAIRPERSON.—The  
5 Chairperson shall be accountable to the President  
6 and the Congress for the operations of the Board.

7 (c) TERMS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each member of the Board  
9 (including the Chairperson) shall be appointed for a  
10 term of 3 years, except as provided in paragraph  
11 (2).

12 (2) TERMS OF INITIAL MEMBERS.—As deter-  
13 mined by the President as of the date of the first  
14 appointments, of the members first appointed—

15 (A) 12 members shall be appointed for a  
16 term of 1 year;

17 (B) 12 members shall be appointed for a  
18 term of 2 years; and

19 (C) 12 members (including the Chair-  
20 person) shall be appointed for a term of 3  
21 years.

22 (3) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the Board  
23 shall not affect its powers, but shall be filled in the  
24 same manner as the original appointment.

1 (d) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days after  
 2 the date on which all members of the Board have been  
 3 appointed, the Board shall hold its first meeting.

4 (e) MEETINGS.—The Board shall meet at the call of  
 5 the Chairperson, but not less frequently than semiannu-  
 6 ally. The Board shall provide appropriate notice of each  
 7 meeting to the general public. The meetings of the Board  
 8 shall be open to the general public.

9 (f) TREATMENT OF BOARD.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other  
 11 provision of law, the Board shall not be considered  
 12 to be a Federal agency for purposes of the civil serv-  
 13 ice laws and any other provision of Federal law gov-  
 14 erning the operation of Federal agencies, including  
 15 personnel or budgetary matters relating to Federal  
 16 agencies.

17 (2) EXEMPTION FROM THE FEDERAL ADVISORY  
 18 COMMITTEE ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee  
 19 Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Board.

20 **SEC. 102. DUTIES OF THE BOARD.**

21 (a) PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP.—The Board  
 22 shall—

23 (1) facilitate the development and use of a pub-  
 24 lic-private partnership for travel and tourism policy-  
 25 making;

1           (2) develop a national travel and tourism strat-  
2       egy for increasing tourism to and within the United  
3       States;

4           (3) advise the President, the Congress, and  
5       members of the travel and tourism industry concern-  
6       ing—

7           (A) the implementation of the national  
8       strategy referred to in paragraph (2); and

9           (B) other matters that affect travel and  
10      tourism; and

11          (4) provide guidance to the National Tourism  
12      Organization established under section 201.

13      (b) RECOMMENDATIONS; TESTIMONY.—The Board—

14          (1) shall develop such recommendations on the  
15      issues referred to in subsection (a)(3) as the Board  
16      considers to be appropriate; and

17          (2) may present testimony concerning those is-  
18      sues to the Congress and to State legislatures.

19      (c) REPORTS.—To carry out its duties, the Board  
20      may submit to the President and the Congress such re-  
21      ports concerning the findings and determinations of the  
22      Board as the Board determines to be appropriate.

23      **SEC. 103. POWERS OF THE BOARD.**

24          (a) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The  
25      Board may secure directly from any Federal department

1 or agency such information as the Board considers nec-  
2 essary to carry out the duties of the Board. Upon request  
3 of the Chairperson of the Board, the head of a Federal  
4 department or agency shall furnish that information to the  
5 Board.

6 (b) CONTRIBUTIONS.—The Board may accept, use,  
7 and dispose of gifts or donations of funds, services, or  
8 property necessary to carry out its duties. The Board may  
9 not accept any Federal financial assistance or financial as-  
10 sistance from any other government.

11 **SEC. 104. BOARD PERSONNEL MATTERS.**

12 (a) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—Each member of  
13 the Board who is not an officer or employee of the Federal  
14 Government shall serve without compensation, except for  
15 travel expenses, as described in subsection (b). Each mem-  
16 ber of the Board who is an officer or employee of the Fed-  
17 eral Government shall not receive any compensation in ad-  
18 dition to that received for that member's services as an  
19 officer or employee of the United States.

20 (b) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Subject to the availability  
21 of funds from financial contributions under section  
22 103(b), the members of the Board may be allowed travel  
23 expenses, while away from their homes or regular places  
24 of business in the performance of services for the Board.

25 (c) STAFF.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson of the  
2           Board may appoint and terminate an executive di-  
3           rector and such other additional personnel as may be  
4           necessary to enable the Board to perform its duties.

5           (2) COMPENSATION.—The Chairperson of the  
6           Board may fix the compensation of the executive di-  
7           rector and other personnel.

8           (3) SUPPORT SERVICES.—At the request of the  
9           Chairperson of the Board, the Chairperson of the  
10          Board of the National Tourism Organization estab-  
11          lished under section 201 may provide clerical and  
12          support services to the National Tourism Board es-  
13          tablished under this title.

## 14       **TITLE II—NATIONAL TOURISM** 15       **ORGANIZATION**

### 16       **SEC. 201. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL TOURISM ORGA-** 17       **NIZATION.**

18       (a) IN GENERAL.—

19           (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall, in  
20           accordance with this section, provide for the estab-  
21           lishment of a nonprofit corporation, to be known as  
22           the National Tourism Organization (hereafter in this  
23           title referred to as the “Organization”). The Organi-  
24           zation shall not be an agency or establishment of the  
25           United States Government, but shall be operated in

1 a manner consistent with the provisions of this sec-  
2 tion and any other applicable laws.

3 (2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Organiza-  
4 tion are—

5 (A) to work toward increasing the market  
6 share of the United States in global tourism;

7 (B) to implement the strategy developed  
8 under section 102(a)(2);

9 (C) to operate travel and tourism pro-  
10 motion programs overseas in partnership with  
11 the travel and tourism industry of the United  
12 States;

13 (D) to establish a travel-tourism data bank  
14 and, through that data bank, collect and dis-  
15 seminate international market data;

16 (E) to conduct market research necessary  
17 for the effective promotion of the travel and  
18 tourism market; and

19 (F) to promote United States travel and  
20 tourism at international trade shows.

21 (b) ORGANIZATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—The Or-  
22 ganization shall have a Board of Directors (hereafter in  
23 this title referred to as the “Organization Board”). The  
24 Organization Board shall consist of 45 members, ap-  
25 pointed by the President. The Organization Board shall



1 be accountable to the National Tourism Board established  
2 under title I for the operations of the Organization.

3 (c) INCORPORATORS.—The members of the initial Or-  
4 ganization Board shall—

5 (1) serve as incorporators; and

6 (2) take any action that is necessary to estab-  
7 lish the Organization as a corporation under applica-  
8 ble law.

9 (d) TERM OF OFFICE.—The term of office of each  
10 member of the Organization Board who is appointed by  
11 the President shall be 3 years, except that any member  
12 appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expira-  
13 tion of the term for which the predecessor of that member  
14 was appointed shall be appointed for the remainder of that  
15 term.

16 (e) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the Organization  
17 Board shall not affect its power, but shall be filled in the  
18 same manner as the original appointment.

19 (f) CHAIRPERSON.—The Organization Board shall be  
20 headed by a chairperson, who shall be selected by the Or-  
21 ganization Board, from among the members of the Orga-  
22 nization Board.

23 (g) STATUS OF MEMBERS.—Members of the Organi-  
24 zation Board shall not, by reason of membership in the

1 Organization Board, be considered to be officers or em-  
2 ployees of the United States.

3 (h) OFFICERS; STAFF.—

4 (1) OFFICERS.—The Organization shall have a  
5 president, and such other officers as may be named  
6 and appointed by the Organization Board for terms  
7 and at rates of compensation fixed by the Organiza-  
8 tion Board. The president shall serve as a member  
9 of the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee es-  
10 tablished under section 2312 of the Export En-  
11 hancement Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 4727). The Or-  
12 ganization Board may prescribe the duties of the of-  
13 ficers. All officers of the Organization shall serve at  
14 the pleasure of the Organization Board.

15 (2) STAFF.—The Organization Board shall hire  
16 the staff necessary to carry out the purposes of the  
17 Organization and fix the compensation of that staff.

18 (i) FINANCING.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
19 of incorporation of the Organization, the appropriate offi-  
20 cers of the Organization shall cooperate with the Organi-  
21 zation Board to develop a recommendation for the long-  
22 term financing of the Organization.

23 **SEC. 202. COOPERATION BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.**

24 (a) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Upon request of the  
25 appropriate officer of the Organization or the Organiza-

1 tion Board, the head of a Federal agency shall provide  
 2 technical assistance to assist the Organization in carrying  
 3 out its purposes, as specified in section 201(a)(2).

4 (b) OVERSEAS POSTS.—The head of each Federal  
 5 agency that maintains offices in a foreign country shall,  
 6 as appropriate, incorporate in the programs and activities  
 7 carried out by those offices, programs and activities that  
 8 implement the recommendations of the National Tourism  
 9 Board established under section 101 and the Organiza-  
 10 tion.

11 **SEC. 203. TRADE PROMOTION COORDINATING COMMITTEE.**

12 Section 2312 of the Export Enhancement Act of  
 13 1988 (15 U.S.C. 4727) is amended—

14 (1) in subsection (c)—

15 (A) by striking “and” at the end of para-  
 16 graph (4);

17 (B) by striking the period at the end of  
 18 paragraph (5) and inserting “; and”; and

19 (C) by adding at the end the following new  
 20 paragraph:

21 “(6) reflect recommendations made by the Na-  
 22 tional Tourism Board established under the Travel  
 23 and Tourism Partnership Act of 1996.”; and

24 (2) in subsection (d)(1)—

1           (A) by striking “and” at the end of sub-  
2 paragraph (L);

3           (B) by redesignating subparagraph (M) as  
4 subparagraph (N); and

5           (C) by inserting after subparagraph (L)  
6 the following:

7           “(M) the president of the National Tour-  
8 ism Organization established under the Travel  
9 and Tourism Partnership Act of 1996; and”.

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